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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL];
Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **HENDRIKS, Bernardus, H., W.** [NL/NL]; c/o Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).
- (74) Agent: **UITTENBOGAARD, Frank**; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL).
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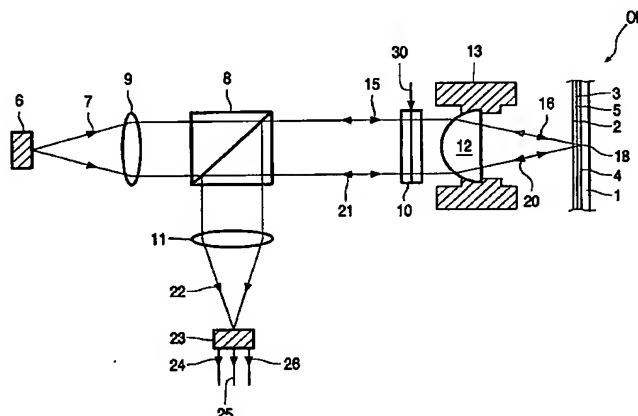
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(54) Title: OPTICAL SCANNING DEVICE



(57) Abstract: An optical scanning device for scanning a multi-layer optical record carrier when positioned in a scanning location in the device, the device being adapted for scanning a first information layer at a first information layer depth within the record carrier and a second information layer at a second information layer depth within the record carrier. The device comprises: a radiation source for generating a radiation beam; an objective lens, located in an optical path between the radiation source and the scanning location, for converging a radiation beam to a spot on an information layer; and - an optical switching arrangement switchable between a first state, in which the device is arranged to scan a said first information layer, and a second state, in which the device is arranged to scan a said second information layer. The optical switching arrangement comprises a compensator arranged to generate a different amount of spherical aberration in a radiation beam when in said first state and when in said second state. The compensator is further arranged to generate a different amount of vergence in a radiation beam when in said first state and when in said second state. The different amounts of spherical aberration and vergence are selected such that a free working distance between said objective lens and said optical record carrier remains substantially constant when switching between said first and second states.

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